

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049237
ORIGIN AF-08

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66011
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R 050129Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049237

FOL REPEAT OUAGADOUGOU 0655 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON DATED
23 FEB 77

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 0655

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BEXP, EAIR, UV, UK
SUBJ: PAN AFRICAN AIR INDUSTRIES

REF: LONDON 02991

1. I RECEIVED CABLE FROM COL ROBERTSON OF PAAI YESTERDAY
STATING HE IS IN PROCESS OF ACQUIRING NECESSARY LOAN
FUNDS FOR PAYMENT OF BELFAST AIRCRAFT AND THAT HE DOES NOT
EXPECT ANY DIFFICULTY EXCEPT ONE OF TIMING. APPARENTLY,
PAYMENT IS DUE ON FEBRUARY 24 AND IT WILL TAKE HIM
LONGER THAN THIS, PERHAPS A WEEK OR TWO, TO MAKE FINAL
LOAN ARRANGEMENTS. ROBERTSON ASKED WHETHER STATE
DEPARTMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH
UK AUTHORITIES WITH A VIEW TO A RELAXATION OF PAYMENT
DEADLINE.

2. IN LONG COVERSATION WITH FINANCE MINISTER KALMOGO LAST
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NIGHT I ASKED HIM POINT BLANK WHETHER GOUV
WAS INTERESTED IN PAAI PROJECT AND IN HAVING BELFAST
AIRCRAFT BASED IN OUAGADOU. HIS REPLY WAS AN
EMPHATIC "YES". HE SAID THAT TRANSPORT MINISTER
OUEDRAOGO WAS IN PROCESS OF WORKING OUT MODUS VIVENDI
WITH AIR AFRIQUE WHICH WOULD PERMIT IMPLEMENTATION OF
PAAI PROJECT. HE SAID THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC PROBLEM

WOULD BE STRAIGHTENED OUT WITHIN A FEW WEEKS.

3. IT IS UNDOUBTEDLY IN UK INTERESTS THAT PLANES BE USED FOR ORIGINAL PURPOSE WHICH WAS PRESENTED TO PUBLIC AS A SORT OF INDIRECT UK ASSISTANCE TO SAHEL. IF PLANES WERE USED FOR DIFFERENT PURPOSE, UK AUTHORITIES WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE UNDER ATTACK FOR HAVING SOLD BELFAST AIRCRAFT TO PAAI FOR ONLY 5 MILLION DOLLARS. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, I BELIEVE WE WOULD BE JUSTIFIED IN APPROACHING UK AUTHORITIES IN ORDER PERMIT COL. ROBERTSON TO COMPLETE LOAN ARRANGEMENTS. I THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT EMBASSY LONDON BE INSTRUCTED TO MAKE SUCH DEMARCHE.

4. STATE 39412 JUST RECEIVED. BELIEVE PARS 2 AND 3 ABOVE MAY BE OF ASSISTANCE TO EMBASSY LONDON.
GRAHAM
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 05-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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